

(3) On the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 2264—the Northern Uganda Crisis Response Act, I would have voted “yea.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, personal reasons prevent me from being present for legislative business scheduled for today, Monday, July 19, 2004. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on H.R. 1587, the Viet Nam Human Rights Act of 2003 (rollcall No. 391); “yea” on S. Con. Res. 114, a resolution concerning the importance of the distribution of food in schools to hungry or malnourished people around the world (rollcall No. 392); and “yea” on S. 2264, the Northern Uganda Crisis Response Act (rollcall No. 393).

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 1308, TAX RELIEF, SIMPLIFICATION, AND EQUITY ACT OF 2003

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, subject to rule XXII, clause 7(c), I hereby announce my intention to offer a motion to instruct on H.R. 1308, Tax Relief, Simplification, and Equity Act of 2003.

The form of the motion is as follows:

Mr. Stenholm moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 1308 be instructed to agree, to the maximum extent possible within the scope of conference, to a conference report that—

- (1) extends the tax relief provisions which expire at the end of 2004, and
- (2) does not increase the Federal budget deficit.

BUSH TAX CUTS ARE WORKING

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I brought a little article down here with me tonight because I think it is kind of instructive. Sunday morning I was watching some of the talk shows and doing a little reading, and I heard a spokesman for the Democratic candidate say, “Well, you know, this administration has wrecked the economy.”

At that point in time, I happened to be reading an article here. It says, “Sales Survey: Economy is Still Picking Up Speed.”

What this is talking about is the amount of growth in Tennessee’s economy. Over 370 sales professionals were surveyed for their second quarter sales; 69 percent of them saw sales up over first quarter numbers.

Mr. Speaker, I think this just reminds us and proves to us that tax relief works. Continued tax relief for the American people works. Jobs are being created, over 1 million jobs in the last few months. Over 91 million Americans saw a tax cut last year. The Bush tax cuts are working.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4850, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-615) on the resolution (H. Res. 724) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4850) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3574, STOCK OPTION ACCOUNTING REFORM ACT

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-616) on the resolution (H. Res. 725) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3574) to require the mandatory expensing of stock options granted to executive officers, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

MISSION NOT ACCOMPLISHED ON ECONOMY

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, the Department of Labor reported that hourly earnings for workers fell 1.1 percent last month. That is the deepest drop since the depths of the recession in 1991, and it follows a 0.8 decrease in hourly wages in May.

With household income down nearly \$1,500 the last 2 years, working families will have to work more hours just to lift their incomes to get back to where they were 3 years ago.

All the while, health care costs for a family of four have gone up from \$6,500 to \$9,000, college costs have gone up 26 percent in the last 3 years, household bankruptcies have risen by 33 percent in the last 2 years, \$180 billion of net value has been erased from 401(k)s.

With a record like this, only this administration would hang the banner “mission accomplished” above the economy.

We can do better for the middle-class families who are facing a squeeze on college costs, health care, savings for their own personal retirement and hourly working income. It is time to turn this economy around to reflect the economic interests of middle-class families who have been faced with a squeeze on them, their family and their children as it relates to the costs.

It is time to put this administration’s banner “mission accomplished” back where it came from.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEUGEBAUER). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

HONORING NORBERT DREILING OF HAYS, KANSAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize a man from my hometown who is a legend in Kansas and a pillar in our community, a man who is sought out for his political expertise and advice as well as for his legal skills, and a man who is well known for his charitable efforts and his vision for our State and our country. I am here tonight to honor a leader, and my friend, Mr. Norbert Dreiling.

Mr. Dreiling may best be known as the father of Democratic politics in the State of Kansas. Through years of dedicated service, he breathed life into a struggling Democratic party and established a lasting two-party system in our State.

Early on, Norbert found ways to use his talents to further his beliefs in good government and in opportunity for all. After graduating from law school in 1949, he returned to his home of Hays, Kansas, where he volunteered as a precinct committeeman, a position he held for the following 25 years. Norbert’s enthusiasm and ability brought opportunities well beyond local politics. From 1966 to 1974, he served as State party chairman of the Democratic Party and as campaign chairman for Kansas Governor Robert Docking.

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The party flourished under Chairman Dreiling’s leadership; and for the first time in Kansas’s history, an incumbent Republican Governor was defeated in a race for that office. Norbert went on to advise Governor Docking and helped elect him to a historic four terms as Kansas Governor, the most terms ever served by a Governor in our State. Norbert took an interest in national politics; and along with serving as a delegate to four national party conventions, he served as State co-chairman for the Johnson and Kennedy Presidential campaigns. Today, at the wise age of 79, Mr. Dreiling continues to advise and empower candidates and officeholders.

Norbert’s influence extends well beyond politics. Even before President Kennedy’s call for civic duty, Norbert was revered as a strong leader and a generous spirit in our community. His benevolent service in support of hospitals, rest homes, schools, and civic organizations is legendary. With an eye to bettering the future, Norbert also knows the importance of remembering

the past. He has been instrumental in promoting the Volga-German heritage of Ellis County, Kansas; and he has authored a history of the Volga-German people and their immigration to Kansas, as well as a pageant play marking the centennial anniversary of these events.

When he is not volunteering his time and talents, Norbert is a successful attorney and a partner in the law firm of Dreiling, Bieker and Hoffman. Despite his many activities, his family comes first. Norbert is a devoted husband to his wife Jeannie, and a proud father of four children: January, Mark, Curtis, and Kathy.

Like his Volga-German ancestors who crossed the Kansas prairie many years ago, Norbert's hard work and strong values have made his community and our State a better place. I want tonight to thank Norbert for his many accomplishments, for his civic-minded spirit, and for his sound leadership. Despite a difference in our party affiliation, he is a friend and adviser; and I commend him for his longtime service to our great democracy.

Norbert has spent his life advocating for those in need and enabling others to overcome life's challenges. Today, Norbert himself is facing a great challenge, a personal battle with Parkinson's disease. And tonight, our prayers go out to Norbert and his family during these difficult times. May the strength and courage demonstrated in his years of service throughout his life help him fight the effects of this terrible disease.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT ON RENEWING ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEUGEBAUER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, at the end of this week, we all take our 6-week break before we come back to the House. That means we only have 9 days left before September 13 when we are going to see the assault weapons ban in this country expire. We have already seen where the gun manufacturers are coming out and saying they cannot wait until this expires, mainly because on September 14 they will be able to supply assault weapons back into the stores so anyone that wants to can buy them.

Mr. Speaker, since I have been here in Washington trying to fight and reduce gun violence in this country, I have always been fair. I have never tried to take away the right of someone to own a gun. But assault weapons go way overboard. Do we want to see our citizens in this country be able to have assault weapons? Assault weapons are the guns that we are seeing every day, unfortunately, in Iraq. Assault weapons are guns that are made to take down as many people as possible in the shortest period of time.

A recent poll by the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence shows that

an overwhelming amount of Americans support renewal of the ban, including gun owners around the country and NRA supporters. Voters in key Midwestern States, including Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Missouri, average 72 percent in support of the renewal. In Florida, 81 percent of likely voters support renewing the ban. In rural States, including West Virginia and South Dakota, 68 percent of voters support the renewal. The majority of gun owners in this country support the renewal, mainly because the majority of gun owners in this country are fair, and they know what kinds of guns they need and what kinds of guns we do not need.

In the face of these dramatic numbers in favor of the ban, the issue, unfortunately, remains in a political deadlock. In 2000, the President, President Bush, said that he would sign the bill if it got on his desk. Well, we know that the President has been able to get everything that he has wanted through this House by making some phone calls. It is time the President stands up. It is time the President says, we should have the assault weapons ban certainly renewed, at the least.

Listen, I support our police officers across this country. The police officers across this country want this ban kept in place. Why? Because they have found over the last 10 years fewer and fewer assault weapons are being used in crimes. Fewer and fewer assault weapons are being used to hurt our police officers across this country.

Mr. Speaker, I happen to believe very strongly that one person can make a difference. That is why I came to Congress. But I also know that it takes the American people to wake up, to be able to have their voices heard here; and this is one chance when the American people can come together.

Do not let this time run out. This is where the American people can get involved. Certainly e-mail the Speaker of the House and the President of the United States. Let us keep this promise that the President made back in 2000 a reality. Do we want assault weapons back on our streets? Do we want the possibility of terrorists that are supposedly in this country being able to buy these guns? Do we want the drug lords to be able to have these guns? Think of the shootings that we have had in this country over the last several years. Can we imagine if they had had an assault weapon and how many more people they could have taken down?

I spent my life as a nurse before I came to this great House. My job is to take care of people. My job is to prevent people from being ill, to give them the best quality of life possible. Having assault weapons is deadly for all of us. It is deadly for our children. It is deadly for our police officers. I here in Congress refuse to let this die. That is why I came to Congress, to save lives.

I am asking the American people to get behind this. When we come back in

September, over 2,000 people will have died during that time. Two thousand people. Two thousand families, not even counting how many have been wounded. I know this is personal for me, but the rhetoric that we are hearing from the NRA is false.

Ten years ago we heard constantly the only reason we wanted to get this assault weapons ban done is so we could go down that slippery road. Well, let me tell my colleagues something. Second amendment rights, the Constitution, each one of us swears that we will uphold that. I am not out here to take away anyone's right to own a gun.

Please, the American people must become involved in this.

DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, there has been a great deal of debate lately about the definition of marriage. It seems that the position taken is determined largely by a person's world view. Some are primarily interested in what best serves adults. Issues such as health insurance benefits, Social Security benefits, survivor benefits, hospital visitation rights tend to dominate the debate. There is emphasis upon individual rights and personal freedoms.

There is resentment of those who would attempt to limit the definition of marriage. On the other hand, there are those who are primarily interested in children's welfare and long-term cultural implications as they seek to define marriage. For these people, marriage is viewed as the most basic, elemental social contract. It is the bedrock of the culture. Its primary purpose is the conception and rearing of children in a stable, long-term relationship between a man and a woman. The strength of the culture, possibly for its very survival, depends upon this process.

If one subscribes to the primacy of the importance of children, then certain facts appear to be incontrovertible. First, a man and a woman produce a child; no other arrangement seems to work very well. Second, research shows that children do better when they live with their biological father and mother in a long-term, stable relationship.

Twelve leading family scholars summarized thousands of studies on child rearing as follows: children raised by both biological parents within a marriage are less likely to become unmarried parents, live in poverty, drop out of school, have poor grades, experience health problems, die as infants, abuse drugs and alcohol, experience mental illness, commit suicide, experience sexual and verbal abuse, engage in criminal behavior. And they conclude their observations as follows: "Marriage is more than a private, emotional relationship. It is also a social good." In